THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) and (b) There have been media reports that Kashmir Committee has met Hurriyat Conference even after formation of new State Government in Jammu and Kashmir. The Kashmir Committee is a private initiative of individuals in which the Government has no role. The Government is, therefore, not aware of the progress, if any, made by this Committee in its efforts.

(c) and (d) Shri N.N. Vohra, former Union Home Secretary has been nominated to initiate and carry forward a dialogue process not only with the elected representatives but also with various organisations and concerned individuals in the State of Jammu and Kashmir.

Long-term solution of crimes committed by kids

1450. PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that about 40 per cent of the kids arrested and remanded to juvenile houses had committed rape, sodomy and molestation;

(b) whether Government are also aware that a reputed NGO-PRATIDHI, had found that petty crimes happened to be committed by the kids were due to a particular atmosphere of poverty and neglect; and

(c) whether Government would consider to hammer out a long-term solution to the problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) 'Police' and 'Public Order' are State subjects as per the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India and hence this information is not maintained Centrally.

(b) Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, which is nodal Ministry for the purpose, have informed that no such report has been submitted to them by the NGO—PRADITHI.

(c) The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment have been administering Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000 relating to juveniles in conflict with the law and children in need of care and protection, by providing for proper care, by catering to their

development needs and by adopting a child-friendly approach in the adjudication and disposition of matters in the best interest of children and for their ultimate rehabilitation through various institutions established under this Act.

Under a Centrally sponsored scheme called 'A Programme for Juvenile Justice[1], Ministry of Social Justice provide 50% financial assistance to State Governments and UT Administrations for establishment and maintenance of various levels of institutions for juvenile in conflict with the law and children in need of care and protection.

Modernisation of Central jail in Vidarbha region

1451. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to enact amendment in the Code of Criminal Procedure to deal with overcrowding of undertrials and defames of State jails;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have received any request for construction, upgradation and maintenance of Central jail in Vidarbha region of Maharashtra State;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the amount sanctioned in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) and (b) The Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 1994 introduced in the Rajya Sabha on May 9,1994 proposes to:-

(i) amend section 436(1) of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 for a mandatory provision that Court shall release an arrested person on execution of a bond without sureties if he is an indigent and cannot furnish surety; and

(ii) insert a new section 436A in the Code to provide that an undertrial prisoner, other than the one accused of an offence for which death has been prescribed as one 6f the punishments, should be released on his personal bond, with or without sureties, if he has been